

# BioMap and Living Waters

## Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts

### Core Habitats of Monterey

This report and associated map provide information about important sites for biodiversity conservation in your area.

This information is intended for conservation planning, and is not intended for use in state regulations.

Produced by:  
**Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program**  
**Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife**  
**Executive Office of Environmental Affairs**  
**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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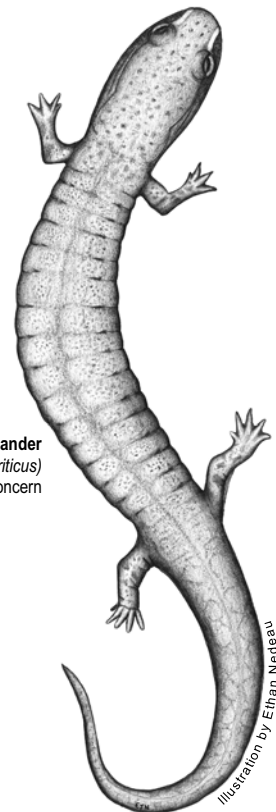
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\* Depending on the location of Core Habitats, your city or town may not have all of these sections.

**Spring Salamander**  
(*Gyrinophilus porphyriticus*)  
Species of Special Concern



*Funding for this project was made available by the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, contributions to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Fund, and through the State Wildlife Grants Program of the US Fish & Wildlife Service.*



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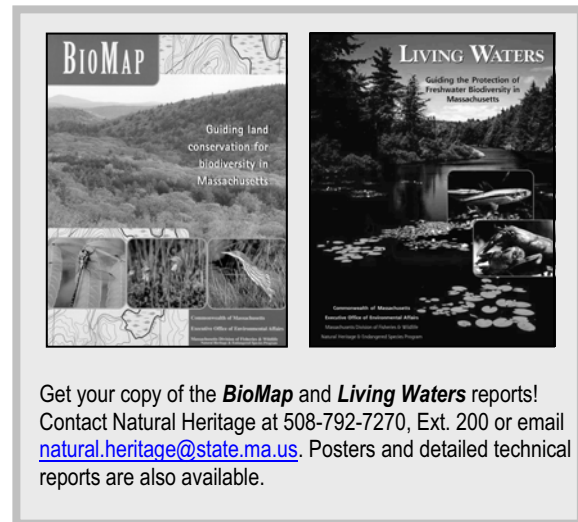
### Introduction

In this report, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program provides you with site-specific biodiversity information for your area. Protecting our biodiversity today will help ensure the full variety of species and natural communities that comprise our native flora and fauna will persist for generations to come.

The information in this report is the result of two statewide biodiversity conservation planning projects, **BioMap** and **Living Waters**. The goal of the BioMap project, completed in 2001, was to identify and delineate the most important areas for the long-term viability of terrestrial, wetland, and estuarine elements of biodiversity in Massachusetts. The goal of the Living Waters project, completed in 2003, was to identify and delineate the rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds that are important for freshwater biodiversity in the Commonwealth. These two conservation plans are based on documented observations of rare species, natural communities, and exemplary habitats.

### What is a Core Habitat?

Both BioMap and Living Waters delineate **Core Habitats** that identify the most critical sites for biodiversity conservation across the state. Core Habitats represent habitat for the state's most viable rare plant and animal populations and include exemplary natural communities and aquatic habitats. Core Habitats represent a wide diversity of rare species and natural communities (see Table 1), and these areas are also thought to contain virtually all of the other described species in Massachusetts. Statewide, BioMap Core Habitats encompass 1,380,000 acres of uplands and wetlands, and Living Waters identifies 429 Core Habitats in rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds.



### Core Habitats and Land Conservation

One of the most effective ways to protect biodiversity for future generations is to protect Core Habitats from adverse human impacts through land conservation. For Living Waters Core Habitats, protection efforts should focus on the **riparian areas**, the areas of land adjacent to water bodies. A naturally vegetated buffer that extends 330 feet (100 meters) from the water's edge helps to maintain cooler water temperature and to maintain the nutrients, energy, and natural flow of water needed by freshwater species.

### In Support of Core Habitats

To further ensure the protection of Core Habitats and Massachusetts' biodiversity in the long-term, the BioMap and Living Waters projects identify two additional areas that help support Core Habitats.

In BioMap, areas shown as **Supporting Natural Landscape** provide buffers around the Core Habitats, connectivity between Core Habitats, sufficient space for ecosystems to function, and contiguous undeveloped habitat for common species. Supporting Natural Landscape was



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generated using a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) model, and its exact boundaries are less important than the general areas that it identifies. Supporting Natural Landscape represents potential land protection priorities once Core Habitat protection has been addressed.

In Living Waters, *Critical Supporting Watersheds* highlight the immediate portion of the watershed that sustains, or possibly degrades, each freshwater Core Habitat. These areas were also identified using a GIS model. Critical Supporting Watersheds represent developed and undeveloped lands, and can be quite large. Critical Supporting Watersheds can be helpful in land-use planning, and while they are not shown on these maps, they can be viewed in the Living Waters report or downloaded from [www.mass.gov/mgis](http://www.mass.gov/mgis).

## Understanding Core Habitat Species, Community, and Habitat Lists

### What's in the List?

Included in this report is a list of the species, natural communities, and/or aquatic habitats for each Core Habitat in your city or town. The lists are organized by Core Habitat number.

For the larger Core Habitats that span more than one town, the species and community lists refer to the entire Core Habitat, not just the portion that falls within your city or town. For a list of all the state-listed rare species within your city or town's boundary, whether or not they are in Core Habitat, please see the town rare species lists available at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

The list of species and communities within a Core Habitat contains only the species and

**Table 1.** The number of rare species and types of natural communities explicitly included in the BioMap and Living Waters conservation plans, relative to the total number of native species statewide.

BioMap		
Biodiversity Group	Species and Verified Natural Community Types	
	Included in BioMap	Total Statewide
Vascular Plants	246	1,538
Birds	21	221 breeding species
Reptiles	11	25
Amphibians	6	21
Mammals	4	85
Moths and Butterflies	52	An estimated 2,500 to 3,000
Damselflies and Dragonflies	25	An estimated 165
Beetles	10	An estimated 2,500 to 4,000
Natural Communities	92	> 105 community types
Living Waters		
Biodiversity Group	Species	
	Included in Living Waters	Total Statewide
Aquatic Vascular Plants	23	114
Fishes	11	57
Mussels	7	12
Aquatic Invertebrates	23	An estimated > 2500

natural communities that were explicitly included in a given BioMap or Living Waters Core Habitat. Other rare species or examples of other natural communities may fall within the Core Habitat, but for various reasons are not included in the list. For instance, there are a few rare species that are omitted from the list or summary because of their particular sensitivity to the threat of collection. Likewise, the content of many very small Core Habitats are not described in this report or list, often because they contain a single location of a rare plant



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species. Some Core Habitats were created for suites of common species, such as forest birds, which are particularly threatened by habitat fragmentation. In these cases, the individual common species are not listed.

### What does 'Status' mean?

The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife determines a status category for each rare species listed under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, M.G.L. c.131A, and its implementing regulations, 321 CMR 10.00. Rare species are categorized as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern according to the following:

- **Endangered** species are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range or are in danger of extirpation from Massachusetts.
- **Threatened** species are likely to become Endangered in Massachusetts in the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.
- **Special Concern** species have suffered a decline that could threaten the species if allowed to continue unchecked or occur in such small numbers or with such restricted distribution or specialized habitat requirements that they could easily become Threatened in Massachusetts.

In addition, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program maintains an unofficial **watch list** of plants that are tracked due to potential conservation interest or concern, but are not regulated under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act or other laws or regulations. Likewise, described natural communities are not regulated any laws or regulations, but they can help to identify ecologically important areas that are worthy of protection. The status of natural

### Legal Protection of Biodiversity

BioMap and Living Waters present a powerful vision of what Massachusetts would look like with full protection of the land that supports most of our biodiversity. To create this vision, some populations of state-listed rare species were deemed more likely to survive over the long-term than others.

Regardless of their potential viability, all sites of state-listed species have full legal protection under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act (M.G.L. c.131A) and its implementing regulations (321 CMR 10.00). Habitat of state-listed wildlife is also protected under the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations (310 CMR 10.37 and 10.59). The **Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas** shows **Priority Habitats**, which are used for regulation under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c.30) and **Estimated Habitats**, which are used for regulation of rare wildlife habitat under the Wetlands Protection Act. For more information on rare species regulations, see the *Massachusetts Natural Heritage Atlas*, available from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program in book and CD formats.

BioMap and Living Waters are conservation planning tools and do not, in any way, supplant the Estimated and Priority Habitat Maps which have regulatory significance. Unless and until the combined BioMap and Living Waters vision is fully realized, we must continue to protect all populations of our state-listed species and their habitats through environmental regulation.

communities reflects the documented number and acreages of each community type in the state:

- **Critically Imperiled** communities typically have 5 or fewer documented sites or have very few remaining acres in the state.
- **Imperiled** communities typically have 6-20 sites or few remaining acres in the state.
- **Vulnerable** communities typically have 21-100 sites or limited acreage across the state.
- **Secure** communities typically have over 100 sites or abundant acreage across the state; however excellent examples are identified as Core Habitat to ensure continued protection.



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### Understanding Core Habitat Summaries

Following the BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitat species and community lists, there is a descriptive summary of each Core Habitat that occurs in your city or town. This summary highlights some of the outstanding characteristics of each Core Habitat, and will help you learn more about your city or town's biodiversity. You can find out more information about many of these species and natural communities by looking at specific *fact sheets* at [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).

### Next Steps

BioMap and Living Waters were created in part to help cities and towns prioritize their land protection efforts. While there are many reasons to conserve land – drinking water protection, recreation, agriculture, aesthetics, and others – BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitats are especially helpful to municipalities seeking to protect the rare species, natural communities, and overall biodiversity within their boundaries. Please use this report and map along with the rare species and community fact sheets to appreciate and understand the biological treasures in your city or town.

### Protecting Larger Core Habitats

Core Habitats vary considerably in size. For example, the average BioMap Core Habitat is 800 acres, but Core Habitats can range from less than 10 acres to greater than 100,000 acres. These larger areas reflect the amount of land needed by some animal species for breeding, feeding, nesting, overwintering, and long-term survival. Protecting areas of this size can be

very challenging, and requires developing partnerships with neighboring towns.

Prioritizing the protection of certain areas within larger Core Habitats can be accomplished through further consultation with Natural Heritage Program biologists, and through additional field research to identify the most important areas of the Core Habitat.

### Additional Information

If you have any questions about this report, or if you need help protecting land for biodiversity in your community, the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program staff looks forward to working with you.

Contact the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program:

*by Phone* 508-792-7270, Ext. 200

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*by Email:* [natural.heritage@state.ma.us](mailto:natural.heritage@state.ma.us).

*by Mail:* North Drive  
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The GIS datalayers of BioMap and Living Waters Core Habitats are available for download from MassGIS: [www.mass.gov/mgis](http://www.mass.gov/mgis)

Check out [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org) for information on:

- Rare species in your town
- Rare species fact sheets
- BioMap and Living Waters projects
- Natural Heritage publications, including:
  - \* Field guides
  - \* Natural Heritage Atlas, and more!



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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

## Monterey

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### Core Habitat BM820

#### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Special Concern
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### Core Habitat BM897

#### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
--------------------	------------------------	---------------

Spring Salamander	<i>Gyrinophilus porphyriticus</i>	Special Concern
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### Core Habitat BM935

#### Natural Communities

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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Acidic Rock Cliff Community		Secure
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### Core Habitat BM953

#### Invertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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Beaver Pond Clubtail	<i>Gomphus borealis</i>	Special Concern
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#### Vertebrates

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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American Bittern	<i>Botaurus lentiginosus</i>	Endangered
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Wood Turtle	<i>Clemmys insculpta</i>	Special Concern
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### Core Habitat BM967

#### Plants

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>
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Small Site for Rare Plant		
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# BioMap: Species and Natural Communities

## Monterey

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### Core Habitat BM973

#### Natural Communities

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Sensitive Natural Community

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Small Site for Rare Plant



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# BioMap: Core Habitat Summaries

## Monterey

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### Core Habitat BM820

#### Vertebrates

This Core Habitat encompasses over 10 connected miles of coldwater, high-gradient brooks and headwater seeps that provide habitat for Spring Salamanders in East and West Brooks in Great Barrington and Monterey. This area is almost entirely contained within Beartown State Forest.

### Core Habitat BM897

#### Vertebrates

This Core Habitat encompasses cold, high-gradient brook habitat for Spring Salamanders along nearly three contiguous miles of Swann Brook in Monterey. Most of this Core Habitat is contained within Beartown State Forest.

### Core Habitat BM935

#### Natural Communities

This Core Habitat contains an undisturbed Acidic Rock Cliff embedded in over 2000 acres of unfragmented, naturally forested land. Acidic Rock Cliffs are open communities of extremely sparse plants, with occasional dense lichen, on ledges and in crevices of acidic cliff faces. Here this crumbly cliff is well-used by wildlife including ravens and porcupines, and supports a good diversity and abundance of plants in cracks and on ledges.

### Core Habitat BM953

This Core Habitat encompasses several miles of riparian habitats and adjacent uplands along the Konkapot River and Rawson and Harmon Brooks. Together these areas provide key habitat for Wood Turtles, American Bitterns, and other wildlife. Although most of the southern half of the Core Habitat is protected as conservation land within Sandisfield State Forest, most of the northern half is currently unprotected.

#### Invertebrates

Within the southeastern end of this Core Habitat is a brook and associated swampy wetlands that are habitat for the Beaver Pond Clubtail dragonfly. The surrounding landscape is both forested and relatively unfragmented, which protects the river from pollution. This Core Habitat is located less than 10 km from other habitat for the Beaver Pond Clubtail within the Core Habitat in Otis, which probably allows for dispersal of individual dragonflies between these two areas. The southeastern portion of this Core Habitat (the part that is habitat for the Beaver Pond Clubtail) is located entirely within the Sandisfield State Forest and other conservation lands.



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# BioMap: Core Habitat Summaries

## Monterey

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### Vertebrates

Miles of meandering streams and brooks, bordered by a mosaic of wet meadows, shrub swamps, upland forests, and small fields, provide significant habitat for Wood Turtles. Higher-gradient streams and headwater seeps may support significant populations of Spring Salamanders as well. Jefferson Salamanders are likely present where vernal pools are abundant. The wet meadows and small shallow marshes created by beaver activity provide habitat for American Bitterns and other wetland birds.

### Core Habitat BM973

#### Natural Communities

This Core Habitat in Monterey provides key wetland habitat for a variety of Massachusetts' plants and animals.



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# Living Waters: Species and Habitats

## Monterey

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### Core Habitat LW010

#### Exemplary Habitats

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Invertebrate Habitat

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### Core Habitat LW012

#### Exemplary Habitats

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Invertebrate Habitat

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### Core Habitat LW244

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Longstem Waterwort

*Elatine triandra*

Watch Listed

### Core Habitat LW274

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Vasey's Pondweed

*Potamogeton vaseyi*

Endangered

### Core Habitat LW299

#### Plants

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Water Star-grass

*Heteranthera dubia*

Watch Listed

#### Fishes

Common Name

Scientific Name

Status

Bridle Shiner

*Notropis bifrenatus*

Special Concern



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# Living Waters: Core Habitat Summaries

## Monterey

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### Core Habitat LW010

This tributary flows out of Steadman Pond in Monterey into Tyringham where it joins Hop Brook. The clear water flows moderately slowly over and around the boulders and cobbles. The tributary supports a healthy community of the more ecologically sensitive aquatic insects: mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies. The presence of this invertebrate community indicates the stream habitats here are relatively free of the impacts of development. Forested stream banks help maintain the high-quality habitat by shading the water to keep it cool, by providing a natural energy source to the stream ecosystem in the form of leaves and sticks, and by controlling the runoff of sediments, excess nutrients, and water.

### Core Habitat LW012

Harmon Brook originates upstream from the Core Habitat in the Sandisfield State Forest, flows through the town of New Marlborough, and empties into a large wetland in Monterey. Water flows swiftly over and around the boulders and cobbles. Some of the more ecologically sensitive aquatic insects - mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies - contribute to the aquatic invertebrate fauna. The presence of this invertebrate community indicates the stream habitats here are relatively free of the impacts of development. Forested stream banks help maintain the high-quality habitat by shading the water to keep it cool, by providing a natural energy source to the stream ecosystem in the form of leaves and sticks, and by controlling the runoff of sediments, excess nutrients, and water.

### Core Habitat LW244

Benedict Pond is the only Massachusetts habitat known for an uncommon species of waterwort, a tiny aquatic plant of shallow water.

### Core Habitat LW274

Lake Garfield supports a large population of the Endangered Vasey's Pondweed, a delicate, submerged plant with tiny floating leaves. Native freshwater plants like Vasey's Pondweed are an important component of aquatic ecosystems, providing habitat and nutrition for fishes and invertebrates, and adding oxygen to the water through photosynthesis.

### Core Habitat LW299

Shallow areas of Lake Buel support a population of the uncommon plant Water Star-Grass, which has tiny yellow flowers and long grass-like leaves. Native freshwater plants like the Water Star-Grass are an important component of aquatic ecosystems, providing habitat and nutrition for fishes and invertebrates, and adding oxygen to the water through photosynthesis. The well-vegetated waters of Lake Buel support a population of Bridle Shiner, a fish Species of Special Concern that has a small range from southern New England to South Carolina, and has been declining or extirpated in much of the region. The Bridle Shiner feeds on small aquatic insects and other invertebrates, and is an important part of the freshwater ecosystem as prey for larger fishes. The Bridle Shiner population in Lake Buel has persisted at least since 1951.



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To learn more about the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program and the Commonwealth's rare species, visit our web site at: [www.nhesp.org](http://www.nhesp.org).